TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 5, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended April 30 totaled 19.4 billion ton-miles, up 8.0 percent from the 18.0 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987.

Cumulative volume for the first 17 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 318.1 billion ton-miles carried, up 7.4 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended April 30 totaled 437,378, up 6.6 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and up 1.3 percent from the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 12.4 percent in the West, and 1.7 percent in the East.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 14 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Coal loadings were up by 8,637 cars (7.6 percent), grain showed a gain of 7,642 cars (31.7 percent), and metallic ores increased by 2,862 cars (16.9 percent). Eleven of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended April 23 totaled 107,419 trailers and/or containers, up 6.6 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 16 weeks of the year was 1,714,058 trailers and/or containers, up 5.1 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 4/30/88:

	Loadings in Week ended April 30, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	31,771	I	7,642	31.7	D	952	2.9
Other farm products	3,265	D	565	14.8	D	241	6.9
Metallic ores	19,792	I	2,862	16.9	D	11	0.06
Coal	121,738	I	8,637	7.6	I	3,128	2.6
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	16,939	I	223	1.3	D	421	2.4
Nonmetallic minerals	11,182	I	1,094	10.8	I	409	3.8
Grain mill products	11,131	I	269	2.5	D	17	0.2
Food and kindred products	10,942	D	215	1.9	D	424	3.7
Primary forest products	9,739	D	1,250	11.4	I	375	4.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	9,103	I	197	2.2	I	919	11.2
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,646	D	130	1.0	I	615	5.1
Chemicals and allied products	27,298	D	1,163	4.1	D	1,592	5.5
Petroleum products	5,342	I	639	13.6	I	429	8.7
Stone, clay and glass products	11,353	D	40	0.4	D	139	1.2
Coke	6,257	I	1,060	20.4	I	409	7.0
Metals and products	11,861	I	1,745	17.2	I	627	5.6
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,328	I	1,283	6.1	D	311	1.4
Waste and scrap materials	10,381	I	1,708	19.7	I	327	3.3
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,726	I	107	4.1	I	77	2.9
All other carloads	81,584	I	2,894	3.7	I	2,589	3.3
Total Cars Loaded	437,378	I	26,997	6.6	I	5,796	1.3
Corresponding week of 1987	410,381						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (17 weeks)	7,095,626	6,662,073	I 6.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
16 weeks ended April 23	298.7	278.3	I 7.3
Week ended April 30	19.4	18.0	I 8.0
17 Weeks cumulative	318.1	296.3	I 7.4

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